

THE SWORD

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Concordia Softball Swings into Action

The Lady Bears prep for coming season

By Jenn Schultz



Spring is in the air: melting snow, above-freezing temperatures, and Golden Bears softball in the Concordia Dome. With the memory of postseason play still fresh in

with a .427 average and eight triples, also a national benchmark and school record. A senior last year, Mattson's presence and leadership will be missed this



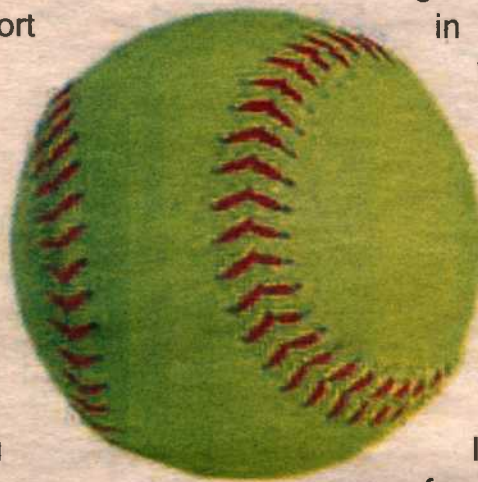
their minds, the Concordia softball team is working hard to improve upon a successful 2011 season. After a seventh place finish in the NSIC and a record of 31 wins and 21 losses, the Golden Bears found themselves heading to the NSIC tournament in Sioux Falls, S.D. But, their postseason was cut short by consecutive losses to Wayne State and Southwest Minnesota State in a double elimination competition.

While they fell short of the championship, many of the Golden Bear players left an enduring mark on the season and the NSIC. Sami Mattson and Brynn Larsen were both named first team all-conference, with Calli Brennan and Katie Anderson finding their way onto the second team list. Mattson finished the season with a .329 batting average and 19 homeruns. Not only were her 19 homeruns a school record but they also landed her third in the nation. Larsen was not only the most consistent player on the roster, but the most versatile as well, playing three different positions throughout the year. She led the Golden Bears

season, but Larsen, Brennan, and Anderson will all be returning to make another run at an NSIC title.

Taking advantage of the dome, they have been taking part in simulated work and inter-squad scrimmages to get ready for the upcoming season. Ranked fifth in the NSIC Preseason Coaches Poll, expectations are high among the players and their conference. They will get their first opportunity Feb. 14 at the Vadnais Heights Dome. The Golden Bears will be taking on the Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs, ranked fourth in the NSIC Coaches Poll. This matchup also gives the Golden Bears another chance to avenge last season's record.

In 2011, Concordia faced Minnesota Duluth three times, falling to the Bulldogs in each of those games. A taste of the postseason left returning players hungry for more so expect the Bears to come out swinging.



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Dear students, faculty, and Concordia community members,

I will start the letter with a giveaway: the FIRST person to hand me, Cody Wilcoxson, the completed crossword and word search on the back page will WIN two lower level tickets to the MINNESOTA WILD GAME on February 28 against the Los Angeles Kings.

Good luck, hockey fans.


Aside from that, The Sword is excited to have our first issue of 2012 out. We all enjoyed a great break from class to recharge our batteries and spend time with family—I know I did. Colorado is beautiful!

Many exciting things are happening around campus. In the next few weeks the weather will start to warm, which means the start of spring sports. For me, that means baseball season. Golden Bears baseball plays their first game Feb. 18 in the Metrodome, we hope to see you all there!

You may have seen athletes wearing "Bear Claw Nation" t-shirts around campus. Anyone that would like one should ask me or email me, and you can become part of the BEAR CLAW NATION!

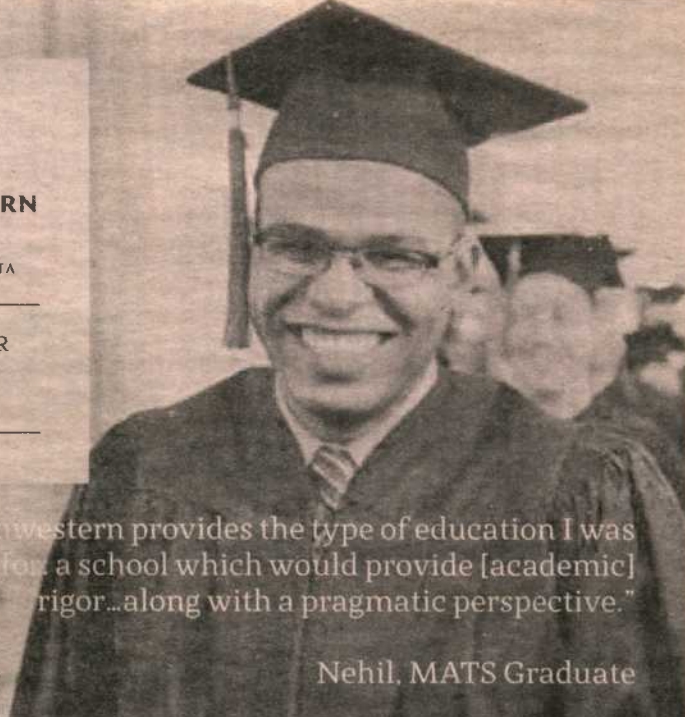
Best wishes,
Cody Wilcoxson
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"Americana": An Evening of Recent Music

The Buetow Music Auditorium played host to the faculty artist recitals

By Rachel Vogt

Last Sunday afternoon, Concordia hosted a faculty artist recitals for the 2011-12 school year. The concert, which featured the works of contemporary composers, was held in the Buetow Music Auditorium and was one of many wonderful concerts put on by the Concordia Music faculty.

Of the five Danish folk songs arranged by David Evan Thomas (b. 1958), some were meditative, some elaborate and complex, and others lively. One tune, called "It Was a Saturday Night", evoked feelings of excitement and adventure, prompting memories of Saturday night escapades.

Next on the program was William Grant Still's (1895-1978) "Miniatures," a collection of melodies from around the world pieced together in a droll and fresh manner. As Amy Morris, the flautist, explained before the performance, the audience could practically feel the lazy, side-to-side motion of a horse in "I Ride An Old Paint" or see the pompous absurdity of the frog in "A Frog Went A-Courtin'," swings his walking stick and strolling confidently towards the lady amphibians.

"Mid-Winter Fires" by Louis Ballard (1931-2007), although originally arranged for a different set of instruments, sounded beautiful with the combination of the flute, oboe, and piano. Soaring, translucent melodies suggested feelings of crisp winter air and the many trills lent the piece a sensation of dancing and joy, even in the darkness of winter.

After a short intermission, the audience was treated to a moving performance of "The Storm" written in 2011 by Joshua Bauder (b. 1987), a promising young composer and recent grad of St. Thomas University. In the words of the composer, the piece "charts the progress of a typical Midwestern storm." Using rolled chords and a general lack of tonality (or key) in the woodwind parts, the composer imitates the harsh beauty of wind throughout the course of a gale. As the intensity

of the storm rises and falls, so the music grew and diminished during the eight movements of the piece. Bauder, who was able to be at the concert that night, seemed pleased with the overall performance and was acknowledged at the end of the piece by the ensemble.

The concert wrapped up with two more pieces, "The Winter's Passed" by Wayne Barlow and "Escapades" by Concordia's own professor Ed Marcus. "The Winter's Passed," although written for oboe and strings, combines a number of Appalachian folk melodies, strung together in a way reminiscent of the joy of country folk after a long and hard winter.

"Escapades," written specifically for the Indande Ensemble, had an air of blithe buoyancy compared to the earlier, more winter-themed pieces. The four movements, atypically titled with English terms such as "Rather Lively," "Gently, Without Excessive Rubato," or "Sprightly," were surprisingly accessible for 20th century music, and were received with much enthusiasm from the audience.

The comfortable, almost homey atmosphere of the small audience, the presence of the composers, and the excellent performance of the musicians all contributed to make the evening thoroughly enjoyable. The Indande Ensemble, in particular, did a wonderful job of making the recent music understandable and enjoyable for the whole crowd. This concert was a wonderful opportunity for those both familiar and new to new compositions, and more opportunities like this will be offered in the future. The next concert, free to Concordia students, will be on Feb. 12, and will feature Jeana Ogren playing piano and Jennifer Kennard on the flute.

For more information on this or other Concordia music events, go to <http://www.csp.edu/news-events/full-university-calendar> or call 651-641-8248.

Save the Date for These Upcoming Events:

Senior Art Exhibit: Scenes of a River,
Christa Bobbick to Showcase her Work

Feb. 17

By Alicia Eckman

The Mississippi River wildlife will be the focus of Christa Bobbick's Senior Art Exhibit "Scenes of a River" on Feb. 17. The inspiration started from the photograph featured on her postcard which was taken in the Lake City area after last springs flooding. Bobbick and her husband spend a lot of time exploring different locations along the Mississippi and she was captivated by the beauty of the trees. "I'm intrigued by trees and the life of the roots," says Bobbick. Her show features photographs of different places along the river as well as the season changes. "What I hope people can take away from my show is a need to explore the cities. Most of the places where I took pictures are minutes away from campus."

Christa Bobbick's Senior Art Exhibit opens Friday, Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. in the H. Williams Teaching Gallery, located in the Art Building. All are welcome to attend and see "Scenes of a River."

Christus Sings with high school choirs:
choral festival brings Concordia together with
neighboring high schools

Feb. 26

By Rebecca McDermeit

At 7:30 pm on Feb. 26, a special free concert is being given in the Chapel at Concordia. The Christus Choir will be joined by high school choirs from the local surrounding areas.

It is a low-key, more casual concert that allows local high school students the chance to perform with their college age counter parts. It will be about an hour long and will feature the Concordia Academy Choir, the Hmong College Preparatory Concert Choir, and the Christ's Household of Faith Concert Choir. Each choir will sing a few songs of their own, and there will also be a few mass choir pieces. It is sure to be a unique and fun experience, so try to attend.

Other notable Concordia Music department events to look forward to during February are student Dan Sailer's percussion recital on Sunday the 19 at 7 p.m. and the monthly music student recital on Friday the 24 at 2 p.m. in the Buetow Auditorium.

The Good News Players Home Show



Dylan Olson, Andrew Griffin, Austin Ertelt, Melissa Linse, Jackie Wiebold, Amanda Jacobsen

Plays and Musicals Based on Stories from the Bible

Written, and Directed by Dr. Jeffrey E. Burkart

Feb. 19, 2012 - 1:30 p.m.

Buenger Education Center (BEC)

Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn.

Free and open to the public!

The Good News Players (GNP) have performed at Lutheran elementary and high schools throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Louisiana, South Dakota and other states. The GNP performed at the Lutheran Education Association's Convocation held at the Minneapolis Convention Center in 2002, for an audience of over 4,300.

The GNP has also performed at Concordia University alumni events at the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Synodical Convention in St. Louis, Mo, the LCMS International Center, the Thrivent Insurance Company offices in Appleton, Wisconsin, and at the LC-MS National Youth Gathering (2001) in New Orleans where they gave six performances.

On this year's tour the Good News Players will travel to the following LC-MS schools and churches: Gethsemane, Phoenix; Atonement, Glendale; Trinity, Litchfield; Fountain of Life, Tucson; Faith, Tucson; Ascention, Tuscon; Risen Savior,

Chandler and Christ, Gilbert.

"I view the Good News Players as an important Concordia outreach ministry," said Dr. Jeffrey Burkart, Good News Players director and Concordia University associate dean for the College of Vocation and Ministry. "It allows us to share the Good News of the Gospel in a fun and engaging way with the community and church groups of all denominations."

Inspired by Burkart's sold-out, original musical productions of Gospel Time in Gospel Rhyme, the Good News Players repertoire includes short plays and musicals based on favorite parables and stories from the Bible. Each Good News Player's performance is approximately one hour in length.

This year's cast includes: Austin Ertelt, Andrew Griffin, Melissa Linse, Dylan Olson, Amanda Jacobsen, Jackie Wiebold.

For more information about the Good News Players home performance, contact Dr. Jeff Burkart at jburkart@csp.edu or 651-641-8426.

A Spoonful of Spoon Will Help Anything Go Down

Austin, Texas band climbing the charts

By Sam Campbell

Within the ambiguities of indie rock lays one of the fastest growing fan bases around. The band *Spoon*, out of Austin, Texas, has produced five albums since 1996 before even cracking the Billboard 200. Their last two albums had a top 10 and a top 5 finish, respectively.

Lead singer and guitarist Britt Daniel and drummer Jim Eno formed after their time together with The Alien Beats. *Spoon* began their career after signing with a very indie rock heavy label. Matador Records has been notorious for beginning the careers of some of the biggest names in indie rock such as *Pavement* and *Yo La Tengo*—*Spoon* is no exception. They have grown from a sort of coffee shop indie rock band into an international giant—big enough to fill venues in Europe, yet small enough to remain under the "indie" label.

On July 10, 2007 the album *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga*, debuted at



number 10 in the Billboard 200 which was the highest indie rock band placing in recent memory.

The hit song "The Underdog" delivered smooth thought provoking lyrics with a talented horn section behind Daniel's voice. The song launched the band to instant fame.

The band appeared as guests on numerous shows like *Saturday Night Live*, *The Late Show* with David Letterman, and *Late Night* with Conan O'Brien just to name a few.

Spoon's latest album *Transference*, was released in 2010. It reached fourth on the Billboard 200 and was the second spot in the USA Independent Albums

Poll. The rankings do no justice. This album rocks. Tracks such as "Mystery Zone" and "Trouble Comes Running" lead an album roster full of jams that any fan of music can enjoy. Even if you play only a few songs from *Transference* on YouTube you are bound to fall in love. If not, then you need to learn the beauty and talent of indie rock.

Men's Basketball Season Update

By Jake Loftus

As the Concordia men's basketball regular season comes to a close, head coach Kelly Boe's talented young squad prepares to fight their way into a possible playoff spot. As of now the Golden Bears are a distant nine spots out of first place in the NSIC, sporting a losing record in both conference play and overall record, and if they continue to lose more than win, they might miss the playoffs for the first time since the 2001-02 season. However, with less than a month left in the season, the Bears look to keep their playoff hopes alive behind a talented squad of play-makers. Like last year, the team's best players and leaders in every offensive category (points scored, free throws made, and rebounds) are the Olafeso brothers, seniors Kenny and Peter (#3 and #5, respectively), who are nearly identical in their numbers. For example they



both share the team's high in points scored, both averaging at least 16 points a game this season.

The Olafesos may be the best players on the team, but they won't be alone in their quest for a playoff push, for they are joined by talented players such as senior Brent Barz (#4), who is one of the teams leaders in rebounds (3rd behind the Olafesos), and young talent such as junior Isaiah Thomas (#24), and freshmen Clay Olstad (#11) who has made an impact on the team, leading the team in steals. With games every Friday and Saturday in the month of February there is still a chance for the Golden Bears

men's basketball team to sneak into a spot in the NSIC Tournament. There are only four games left in the Gengelhoff Center, so come on down and give support to your Golden Bears as Coach Boe and his team make a run for the tournament.

Golden Bear Indoor Track Races Forward

Men's Track Poised for Strong Finish

Women's Track Finding Success

By Cody Wilcoxson

The Golden Bear men's track team has set several school and personal records during this year's indoor season. The boost has given the team new hope heading into the stretch run of the season.

After last weekend's Bethel Invitational in Arden Hills, Minn., the men have just five meets left before they head to Mankato, Minn., for the NSIC Indoor Championships.

One of the highlights of the regular season is this weekend's trip to Ames, Iowa for the Iowa State Classic. The Golden Bears will be matched up against multiple Division I athletes during the course of the competition.

"Racing against Division I guys is really good competition," said team captain, Travis Wagers, "it really pushes you to run harder and push the pace."

The team is quite familiar with Division I competition having competed in events at the University of Minnesota and the University of Kansas in recent years. Wagers concluded, "The biggest thing with racing Division I athletes is to stay focused and run your race."

Wagers alluded to the Indoor Championships Feb. 24-25, saying, "Typically, we have run some of best races in the conference meet."

"According to the standings we are ranked last," said Wagers, "but, I feel like we will prove to the conference that we are much better than that."

With the continued improvement the team has shown throughout their indoor schedule, they look to challenge some of the NSIC mainstays for individual championships and spots at the Division II indoor national championships March 9-10.

"I'm trying to encourage everyone to keep striving to be a better runner and leave everything on the track," explained Wagers. "If we can set the tone at conference and perform our best when we step on the track, we will be right in the thick of things at the end of the meet."

By Jake Loftus

The 2012 NCAA Division II indoor track season is a short one, but Concordia's women's track and field team is already seeing improvement. The Golden Bears have had a diverse list of names of top finishers through the short season. Unseeded junior, Brittany Dohman, placed third in the 300 meter dash with a time of 22.64 seconds at the MSU Opener—the first event of the indoor season.

The next event was the St. Thomas Opener and nobody had a bigger meet than sophomore Tulo Ojoyeyi. Ojoyeyi set a new indoor school record in the 55 meter dash with a first place finish in 7.34 seconds. She would also placed first with a time of 26.87 seconds in the 200 meter dash. At St. Thomas, Dohman finished first in the 400 meter dash while Esther Jandrich placed first in the pole vault. It was a successful day for the rest of the squad as plenty of Golden Bears found new PRs including: Tulo Ojoyeyi (55m dash, 200m dash), Sarah Pieper (55m dash, pole vault), Leticia Stewart (55m dash, 200m dash), Esther Jandrich (pole vault), Martina Ware (shot put, weight throw), Katie Ellis (shot put), and Mariah Skjefte (weight throw).

Most recently, the Bears competed at the Bethel Invitational. Ojoyeyi was at it again placing second in the 60 meter dash with a personal record of 7.96 seconds. Dohman ran a 26.44 in the 200 meter dash for a second place finish and a new PR, while finishing second in the 400 meter dash with a time of 59.62 for another PR. Becca Ritcher placed fourth in the 3000 meter run with a PR of 11:19:54.

The NSIC Indoor Championships are right around the corner. They will be held Feb. 24-25 in Mankato, Minn. As the new personal records continue to pile up, a strong finish is in sight for the blossoming Bears.

Golden Bear Baseball Hopes to Heat It Up In Arizona

By Jenn Schultz



After narrowly missing the postseason last year, Concordia's baseball team is returning with one goal in mind: they are hungry for a championship. Last season, the Golden Bears missed the NSIC tournament by a single game after having to cancel eight conference matchups due to weather conditions. Each of those eight games was against conference opponents who finished below them in the final standings. It would be easy to focus on what could have been, but head coach Mark "Lunch" McKenzie chooses instead to look to the future and focus on this season's game plan.

The team feels they have all the key elements in place to achieve their goal and it starts with leadership. Coach McKenzie is entering his 13th year as head coach for Concordia as the Golden Bears winningest coach to date. He boasts a record of 266 wins and 199 losses, a record he hopes to build upon this season. But, leadership doesn't start or stop with coaching—the Golden Bears are returning nine seniors, most of whom have been key players for the last three years. Last season, Coach McKenzie considered his team one of the closest knit groups he had ever coached, but he feels they have become even stronger this year. "We have a nice balance on this team of veteran starters, veteran role players and some talented newcomers."

While they do return many of their previous starters, they did sustain a few notable losses. Jon Stockton and Sam Fagely, the second and third leading hitters on the team, will be missing from the lineup. Also, right-hander Nick Anderson is no longer part of the pitching staff, after leading the team with 5 wins and 3 saves

in 13 games.

Even with the loss of Anderson, Coach McKenzie feels the strength of this year's team is their pitching. Their returning three starters, seniors Ben Lemke and Chris Peterson along with junior Andy Fagely, combined for a 28-18 record in 358 innings and 16 complete games. They will be backed by a bullpen featuring seniors Cody Wilcoxson and Logan Bouts. Coach McKenzie also states they have a number of guys who are capable of starting games and they will have the depth to make it through the season as long as they stay healthy. One of the key components to being successful in Division II is having depth at starting pitching.

Another key component for the Golden Bears is to start off strong. It's not going to be an easy road to the tournament. Four teams in the Central Region are ranked in the top 34 in the nation and four others are receiving national consideration in the Preseason Top 40 Coaches Poll. Only six teams make the NCAA tournament. Fourteen of the last eighteen games on Concordia's schedule this season are against teams who finished in the top six last year. Their last three weeks are

mostly spent on the road, as well. The Golden Bears hope to come back from their spring trip in Arizona ready to go and to open conference play on a hot streak. Twelve of their first fourteen games are at home against teams who finished below them in last year's standings. Coach McKenzie emphasizes, "Every game in this league is critical and getting out to a fast start this year is a must."

The Golden Bears road to redemption begins Saturday, Feb. 18 against Missouri Southern State. This is the first time these two teams will meet and playing in the Metrodome will only add to the intensity of the doubleheader. The games will start at 12:15 pm and are the only games prior to their spring trip to Tucson, Ariz.



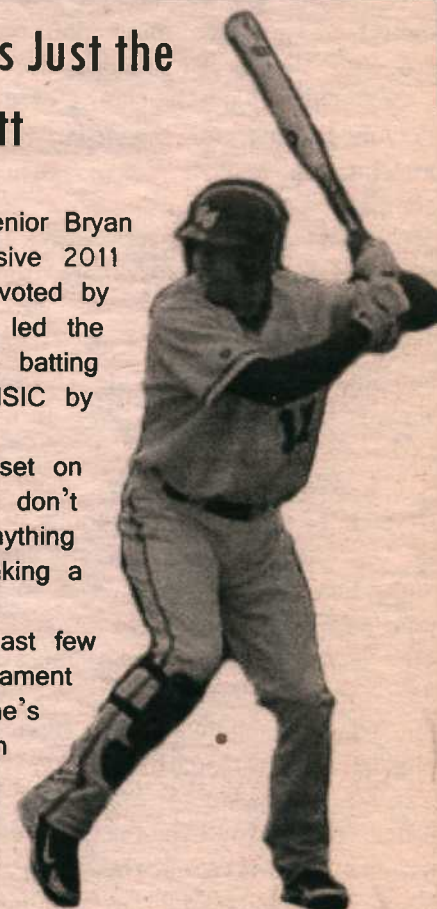
Preseason Player of the Year Award is Just the Beginning for Bryan Lippincott

By Jenn Schultz

The 2012 baseball season has yet to begin and already senior Bryan Lippincott is making an impact on the NSIC. After an impressive 2011 season, highlighted by a 28 game hitting streak, Lippincott was voted by coaches as the NSIC Preseason Player of the Year. He also led the nation in doubles and ranked seventh in the nation with a .434 batting average. Finishing with six homeruns, he missed topping the NSIC by just one.

While Lippincott is honored by the award, his sights are set on the future. "I'm proud of whatever accomplishments I have, but I don't dwell in the past," he states. "None of those numbers mean anything for this season. I'm just focused on winning this spring and making a run into the playoffs."

The Golden Bears have just missed the postseason the last few years and haven't participated in a conference or regional tournament since 2008. Lippincott's focus is on winning this spring, and he's been working hard to make it happen. He shares this attitude with the rest of the team and is quick to include them in his goals for the season. "Our whole team has worked extremely hard this year to prepare for the season. Since day one of fall ball, everyone on the team has had the attitude that we are going to win. With our team this year, I think we can make some noise."



Golden Bears Athlete Spotlights

Brent Barz

By Sam Campbell



After spending a season at Tyler Junior College, the Johnston, Iowa native Brent Barz continued his collegiate career at Concordia University. As a three time all-state team selection in high school, Barz has seen continuing success at the NCAA Division II level.

Throughout his career at CU, Barz has some astonishing career highs. He has scored 26 points on two occasions, grabbed 14 rebounds on two occasions, and has had eight career double doubles. Barz has tallied at least 20 points eight different times in his CU career and has had nine games with ten or more rebounds.

Barz has been an NSIC second team all-conference selection twice already in his career at CU. Despite missing some games earlier this season due to injury, Barz leads the team in rebounds per game with 6.4 and has totaled 108 rebounds on the year. His team high 29 blocks and 9.7 points per game show his consistency to play the big man role for the Golden Bears.

Barz is currently a Sports Management Major at Concordia and has plans for graduate school. He aspires to pursue college coaching opportunities after his schooling is finished. He has played the Golden Bear's big man role better than anyone in recent memory at CU and will start plenty of CU Hall-of-Fame talks the moment his career here comes to an end.

Jodi Batzel

Jodi Batzel is a 6-1 forward on Concordia's women's basketball team. A Rochester, Minn. native, Batzel attended Dover Eyota High School where she was a four-year letter winner in basketball and a three-year letter winner in volleyball.

After committing to Concordia University, Batzel became an immediate impact to the Golden Bears basketball team. She started in 25 games as a true freshman and finished fourth on the team in scoring with 8.2 points a game and second in rebounding with 4.7 a game. Her contribution was good enough to be named 2010-11 NSIC all-freshmen team.

This season Batzel reached a career high 21 points in a game against Michigan Tech back in November. She tallied 15 rebounds against Wayne State, Neb., for another career high while adding 17 points to her total in the contest for a double-double. On Jan. 3 of this year, Batzel tied her career high in assists with four against rival Augustana.

Batzel is often seen working hard in the paint to help the Bears scoring opportunities. If it is a crucial point, or a key offensive rebound that is needed, Batzel has been one of the most reliable players for the Golden Bears. Planning on graduate school Batzel is hoping for a career in occupational therapy and, according to her work ethic on the court, obtaining these goals will be no problem for the work horse.






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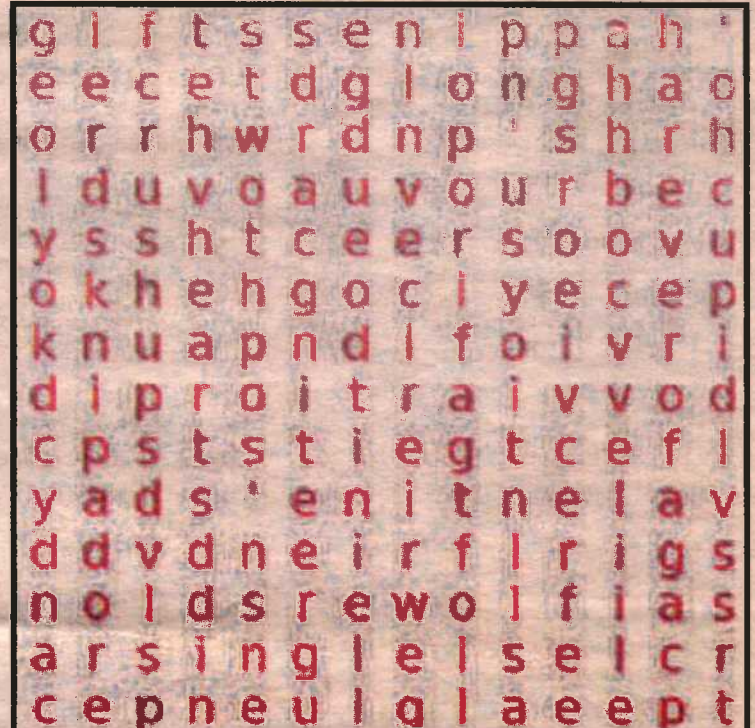
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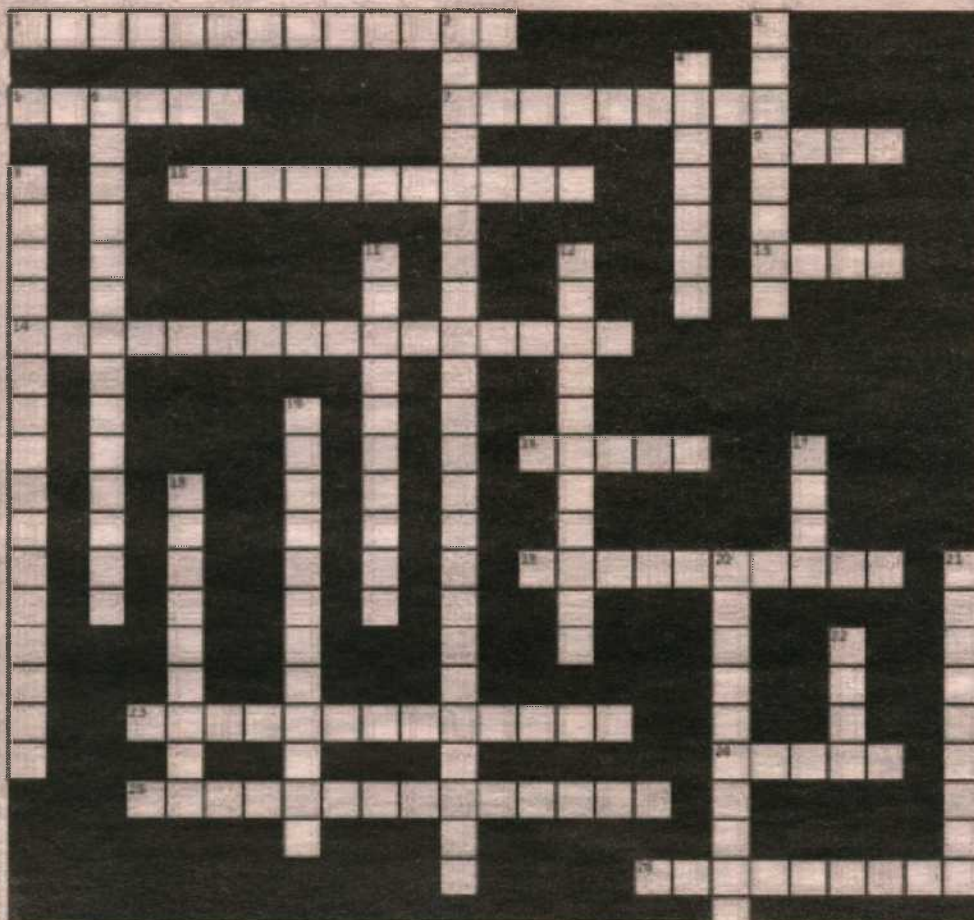
By Andrea Flowers

truelove	hearts	couple
single	forever	rose
lovesongs	happy	greetingcards
valentine'sday	pink	happiness
date	kiss	adore
gift	chocolate	flowers
crush	crush	cupid
candy	boyfriend	girlfriend



Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle

By Rebecca McDermeit



Across

1. The freshman guys live here.
5. This year's musical!
7. Need a textbook for a class, or just a snack to get you through the day? Go here. (2 words)
8. Sarah Bareilles' Love ____
10. Candy with sugary messages. (2 words)
13. Our current university president.
14. A magical land of beakers and equations. (3 words)
16. A fun place on campus for outdoor events.
19. If you're doing athletics, you're probably here.
23. February 14th (2 words)
24. ____ and Juliet.
25. Currently covered with a great white bubble. (3 words)
26. Many upperclassmen live here. (2 words)

Down

2. Where many books can be read or borrowed. (3 words)
3. The newspaper you're currently reading. (2 words)
4. Lady Gaga Bad ____.
6. Students go here for coffee and conversation. (2 words)
9. Where the stage is set for a show (3 words)
11. Food is served here everyday each semester. (2 words)
12. Our teams. (2 words)
15. The place to get delicious pizza, chicken, tacos, and much more right here on campus. (2 words)
17. Kisses and Hugs.
18. Godiva ____ is a good gift for Valentine's Day.
20. The freshman girls live here. (2 words)
21. Where most of the classrooms are. (2 words)
22. Flower of true love.